

# Natural Communities of Louisiana



## Eastern Longleaf Pine Savannah

**Rarity Rank:** S1/G1

	1	2	3	4	5
State					
Global					
	imperiled		rare		secure

**Synonyms:** Pine Savannah, Pine Flatwood, Grass-Sedge Bog, Pitcher-Plant Prairie, Pitcher-Plant Meadow, Pitcher-Plant Bog, Herbaceous Bog, Flatwood Bog

**Ecological Systems:** CES203.375 East Gulf Coastal Plain Near-Coast Pine Flatwoods



### General Description:

- Floristically rich, herb-dominated wetlands with many of the plants closely-allied to hillside bogs
- Sparsely stocked with *Pinus palustris* (longleaf pine) as the dominant tree species
- Occupies the poorly drained and seasonally saturated/flooded depressional areas and low flats
- Commonly associated with mesic pine flatwoods on slight rises and low ridges, often grading down slope to slash pine-pondcypress/hardwood forest, bayhead swamp and/or small stream forest
- Subject to a highly fluctuating water table associated with seasonal hydrologic patterns
- Soils are hydric (wet), very strongly acidic, nutrient poor, fine sandy loams and silt loams, low in organic matter
- Soils may be underlain by an impeding layer slowing water movement in the soil
- Fire maintained natural community (frequent fires prevent woody encroachment and maintain herbaceous layer)

### Plant Community Associates

#### Common woody species include:

*Pinus palustris* (longleaf pine)  
*Magnolia virginiana* (sweet bay)  
*Quercus virginiana* (live oak)  
*Quercus laurifolia* (laurel oak)  
*Morella* spp. (wax myrtles)  
*Styrax americana* (littleleaf snowbell)

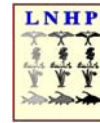
*Pinus elliottii* (slash pine)  
*Nyssa biflora* (swamp black gum)  
*Quercus marilandica* (blackjack oak)  
*Cyrilla racemiflora* (swamp cyrilla)  
*Hypericum* spp. (St. John's worts)  
*Taxodium ascendens* (pondcypress)

#### Common herbaceous species include:

*Andropogon* spp. (broomsedges)  
*Schizachyrium tenerum* (slender bluestem)  
*Aristida* spp. (three-awn grasses)  
*Muhlenbergia capillaris* (hairawn muhly)  
*Coelorachis* spp. (jointgrasses)  
*Xyris* spp. (yellow-eyed grasses)  
*Scleria* spp. (nut-rushes)  
*Eriocaulon* spp. (pipeworts)  
*Fimbristylis* spp. (fimbry-sedge)

*Schizachyrium scoparium* (little bluestem)  
*Panicum* spp. (panic grasses)  
*Ctenium aromaticum* (toothache grass)  
*Erianthus* spp. (plume-grasses)  
*Rhynchospora* spp. (beak-rushes)  
*Fuirena* spp. (umbrella grasses)  
*Dichromena latifolia* (white top sedge)  
*Lachnocaulon* spp. (bog buttons)

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## **Common forb (wildflower) species include:**

*Sarracenia* spp. (pitcherplants)  
*Agalinis* spp. (gerardias)  
*Rhexia* spp. (meadow beauties)  
*Oxypolis filiformis* (hog-fennel)  
*Liatris* spp. (blazing-stars)  
*Drosera* spp. (sundews)  
*Pinguicula lutea* (butterwort)  
*Platanthera* spp. (fringed-orchids)  
*Aletris lutea* (yellow colic-root)  
sunflower family (Asteraceae)  
*Cleistes bifaria* (spreading pogonia)

*Sarracenia psittacina* (parrot pitcherplant)  
*Lobelia* spp. (lobelias)  
*Eryngium integrifolium* (bog thistle)  
*Polygala* spp. (milkworts)  
*Sabatia* spp. (rose-gentians)  
*Pinguicula* spp. (butterworts)  
*Utricularia* spp. (bladderworts)  
lily family (Liliaceae)  
*Tofieldia racemosa* (coastal false-asphodel)  
orchid family (Orchidaceae)  
*Lycopodium* spp. (club-mosses)

## **Federally-listed plant & animal species:**

*Picoides borealis* (red-cockaded woodpecker)

Endangered; G2; S2

## **Range:**

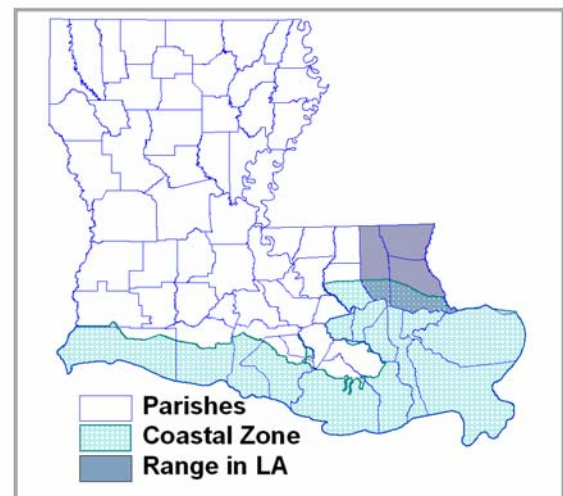
The eastern Florida Parishes of Louisiana were historically dominated by extensive stands of longleaf pine. Now barely 1 % of the original estimated 100,000 to 500,000 acres of longleaf pine savannahs remains.

## **LA River Basins:**

Pontchartrain, Pearl

## **Threats:**

- Residential or commercial development
- Construction of roads, pipelines or utilities
- Conversion to slash or loblolly pine plantations
- Hydrological alterations (to include adjacent areas)
- Soil damage from timber harvesting and planting activities (eg. bedding)
- Contamination by chemicals (herbicides, fertilizers)
- Fire exclusion or inappropriate fire regime
- Off-road vehicle use
- Invasive exotic species



## **Beneficial Management Practices:**

- Prevent conversion of existing natural forests to other land uses
- Use of growing season prescribed fire (April-June) at a frequency of every 1 to 3 years
- No logging during wet periods when the soil is saturated
- Replanting with longleaf seedlings only
- No bedding, plowed fire lines or other soil disturbance that may alter natural water flow patterns
- Prohibit off-road vehicle use, or restrict use to pre-existing trails
- Remove any invasive exotic plant species with use of spot herbicides or mechanical means

Funding provided by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and the Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program

For more information, please visit our Web pages at

[www.wlf.louisiana.gov/experience/naturalheritage](http://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/experience/naturalheritage) or 225-765-2811

[www.BTNEP.org](http://www.BTNEP.org) or 1-800-259-0869